

REMARKS

Claims 2-31 are pending in the application. Claims 2-12, 15-18, 21-24 and 27-31 are rejected. Claims 11, 17, and 23 are cancelled. Claims 13, 14, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are objected to. Claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-22, and 24-31 remain in the case for reconsideration. No new subject matter has been added.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-12, 15-18, 21-24 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Benash et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,084,892.

Claim 2 has been amended to specify a primary interconnect including at least one port coupled to a packet switched routing engine connecting different ones of the network access servers to the packet switched routing engine while in parallel connecting together different combinations of other network access servers.

The Ethernet switch in Benash also does not suggest transferring information between multiple NASs through a first set of primary interconnect links independently of the primary interconnect link coupled to the router while at the same time passing information between individual NASs and the router through the same primary interconnect.

Benash only establishes connections from the NASs through the Ethernet switch 26 to the gateway router 22. See the broken line 86 in FIG. 4 and Col. 15, lines 54-66. There is no suggestion in Benash of the Ethernet switch 26 also establishing connections at the same time between the NASs independently of the router connection as specified in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Benash.

Claim 4 has been amended to specify a secondary interconnect establishing multiple parallel secondary communication links with the network access servers, the multiple parallel secondary links also enabling parallel information transfer between the multiple combination of the multiple access servers at the same time while operating independently of the primary interconnect; and

wherein the secondary interconnect is coupled in parallel with the primary interconnect between the network access servers and the packet switched routing engine and also includes at least one port coupled to the routing engine for connecting different ones of the network access servers to the packet switched network through the packet switched routing engine while in

parallel connecting together different other network access servers. Independent claims 9, 15, 23, and 27 also include the limitation of a secondary interconnect coupled between network processing devices and a routing engine.

In reference to a secondary interconnect, the Examiner refers to Benash column 14, lines 7-26. There is no reference at column 14, lines 7-26 of a secondary interconnect as specified in claim 4. Also refer to FIGS. 4 and 5 in Benash where only a single Ethernet switch 26 is coupled between the Access servers and gateway router 22.

Accordingly, claim 4 and independent claims 4, 9, 15, 23, and 27 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Benash.

Claim Objections

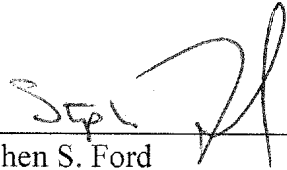
Claims 13, 14, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 13, 14, 19, 20, 25 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form and are accordingly allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-31 of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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